THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) While no specific complaint has been received in this regard from public and Consumer Education and Research Centre, complaints received against LPG distributors about their pressurising new allottees of LPG connections to purchase gas stoves from them are investigated and customers' grievances redressed. All distributors are required to prominently display a notice in their showrooms that it is not obligatory for a consumer to purchase stoves from the distributor releasing the connection. Action against the erring distributors is taken in line with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Losses on account of power supply to the rural sector

*357. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual losses to the State Electricity Boards on account of supply of power to the rural sector during each of the years of the current Five Year Plan and the estimated losses for 1988-89;

(b) gross total loss till date incurred by all the State Electricity Boards; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to eliminate this huge drain on the public exchequer and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The annual estimated losses to the State Electricity Boards on account of supply of power to the agricultural sector and the Rural Electrification (RE) subsidies during each of the years of the current Five Year Plan are indicated below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Losses	RE subsidies
1985-86 . .	1330	1009
1986-87 . . .	1806	774
1987-88 . . .	2569	1272
1988-89 . . .	2904	1317

(b) By 31-3-1989 the cumulative losses are expected to be Rs. 2452.1 crores after reckoning RE subsidies as provided in the accounts.

(c) Some of the measures taken to improve the performance of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are:—

(i) Section 59 of the Electricity (Supply) Act has been amended to provide for every State Electricity Board to carry on its operation and adjust its tariff in such a way as to earn a net surplus of not less than 3 per cent.

(ii) Directions have been issued to State Electricity Boards for capitalisation of interest during construction (IDC), as provided in the Eletricity (Supply) Annual Accounts Rules, 1985.

(iii) State Governments have been requested to provide equity support to State Electricity Boards to make them financially viable.

(iv) State Governments are being advised to release rural electrification subsidies to SEBs regularly and adequately.

(v) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Renovation & Modernisation of thermal power stations has been introduced.

(vi) Theft of power has been made a cognizable offence with stringent punishment for the commitment as well as abetment of the offence.

(vii) An Incentive Scheme has been introduced for reduction of transmission & distribution losses.

(viii) Emphasis is being laid on training of engineers and operation and maintenance personnel of power stations.

Installation of transformers in East Delhi by DESU

*358. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arrangement for installation of electric transformers for the electrification of colonies by the DESU are pending for want of land despite the fact that the lay-out plans of the colonies have been approved;

(b) if so, what is Government's policy for acquisition of land for such purposes;

(c) whether it is a fact that the DESU authorities are insisting to provide five plots, measuring 80 sq. yards each, for installation of five transformers in the Brijpuri Wazirabad Road, Shahdara Delhi; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d) As per the prevalent policy, land for electric sub-station needed for electrification of any colony is required to be handed over to DESU free of cost by the concerned colonising agency. Request for electrification of a colony is considered for execution on completion of the prescribed commercial formalities by the sponsoring agency. In the case of unauthorised colonies in existence as on 1-1-1981., land for installation of transformer/ sub-station is required to be arranged by the residents association, sponsoring the electrification scheme of any such colony.

DESU has assessed the maximum load demand of Brijpuri colony as 1562.5 KVA. The transformation capacity needed for electrification is 1953 KVA. On 6-10-87, DESU had requested the sponsoring party to hand over 5 sub-station sites measuring 8x10 meters each with two approach roads, each 6 meter wide, for installing 5x400 KVA transformers. DESU can prepare the electrification scheme of this colony only when the requisite sites of the sub-stations, are handed over to it.

Setting up of National Gas Grid

*359. *DR. NARREDDY THULASI* REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal at present under Government's consideration to set up a National Gas Grid in the country;

(b) if so, what are the benefits thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The proposal for a national gas grid is part of a long-term perspective plan for the development and utilisation of natural gas. Its implementation will depend upon the establishment of adequate reserves of gas and availability of financial resources for its production and utilisation.

Representations from the telephone subscribers of Punjab

*360. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of representations received regarding grievances of telephone subscribers at various